

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above identified patent application has been amended. Entering of the amendment, reconsideration, and reexamination are hereby requested.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, and 16 are now pending in the application. Claims 2, 4, 5, and 8 have been canceled. Claims 11-14 have been previously canceled. Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, and 9 have been amended.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In addition, the Examiner has allowed claims 10, 15, and 16. The limitations of claim 8 have been added to independent claims 1 and 7. In a phone call on 2/9/2009, the Examiner indicated that adding the limitations of claim 8 to independent claim 1 would put claim 1 into condition for allowance.

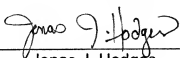
As such, the Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 7, and 10 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 3 and 6 are dependent on independent claim 1 and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 1 and additional limitations therein. As such, these claims are also allowable based upon claim 1 and the additional limitations therein. Claim 9 is dependent on independent claim 7 and therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 7 and additional limitations therein. As such, this claim is also allowable based upon claim 7 and the additional limitations therein. Claims 15 and 16 are dependent on independent claim 10 and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 10 and additional limitations therein. As such, these claims are also allowable based upon claim 10 and the additional limitations therein.

Therefore, in view of the above amendment and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. As such, allowance of the above Application is requested. If there are any remaining issues that can be addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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